

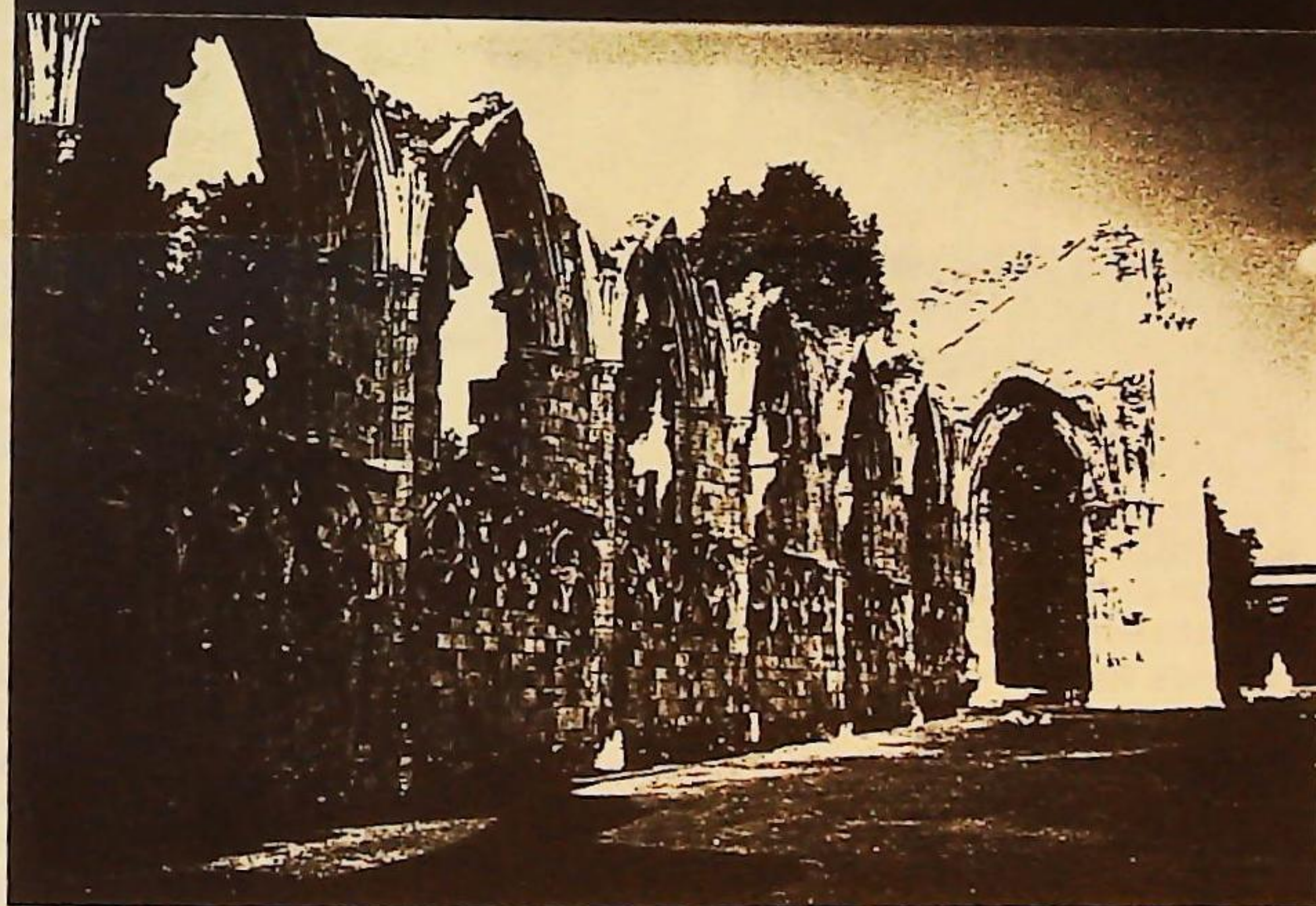
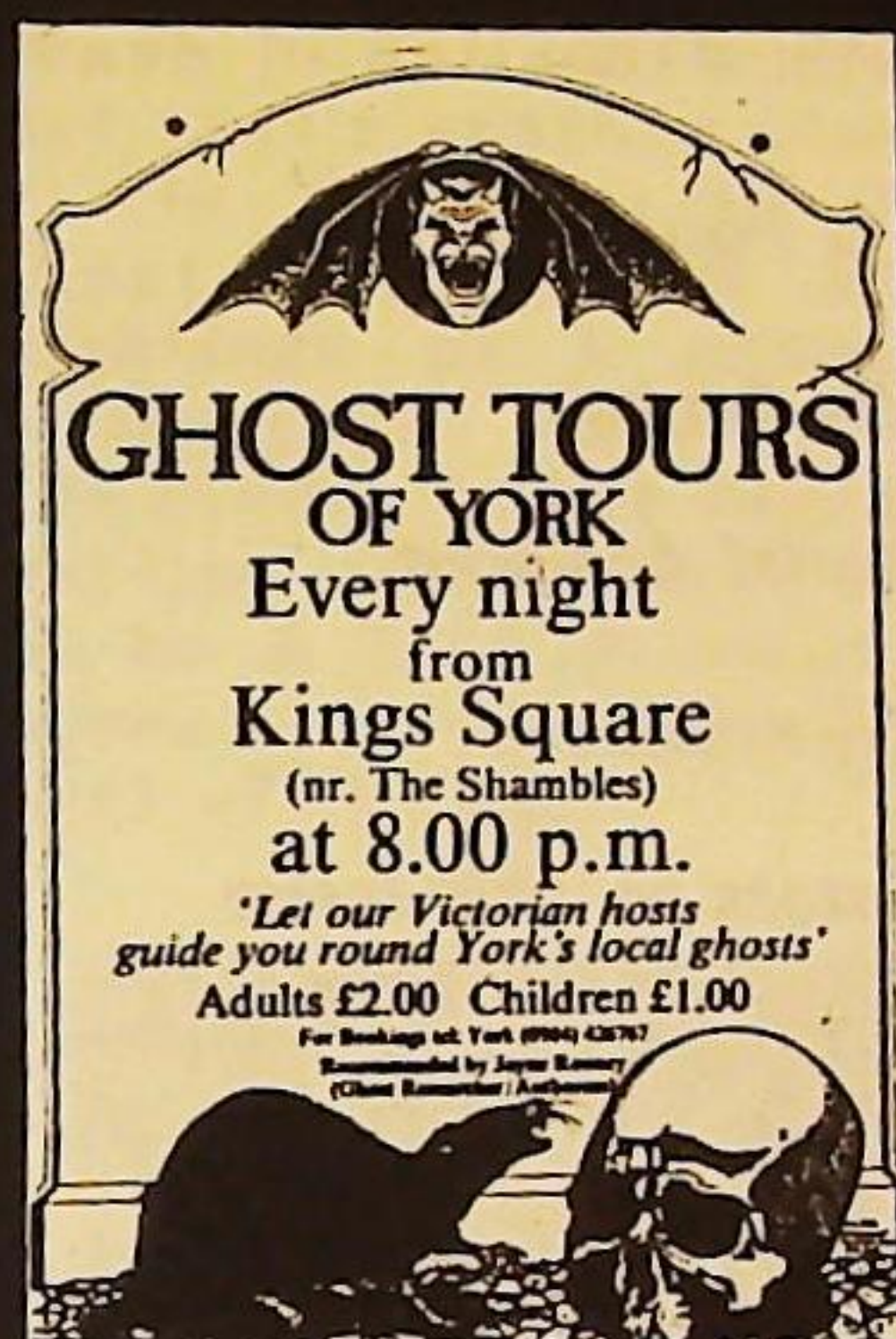
ELSEWHERE

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Featuring:

The Ghosts of RAF Scampton
UFOs: Extraterrestrial or Terrestrial? Conclusion
Was Atlantis Real?
Thoughts on Stonehenge
Do Space-Time Vampires Exist?
A Visit to Haunted York
Plus Much, Much More

ELSEWHEN

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Greetings, friends! Welcome to the sixteenth issue of *Elsewhen*. I want to thank you for being so patient with the longer-than-usual gap between issues this year. A lot of things have happened that made this necessary. I hope you will not be disappointed with the material we have gathered for this issue. It is a great variety that spans many areas of interest.

This is the last issue Ashley had a role in putting out. She left in May and went back to publishing her own fanzine. I had hoped she would stay on, but she wanted new challenges. I wish her the best of luck. I want to thank her for jumping in so willingly after Sandy left unexpectedly. I could not have done it without her. Thanks, pal! I have found a new assistant for the next issue — a teenager! I am considering a different assistant editor each issue; perhaps I will give some local students an opportunity beyond their school papers.

The next issue, due in December, will possibly be the final issue. Because of the continual decline of financial support for organizations such as ours, it has become impossible for us to continue publishing regularly. Our access to a laser printer for quality originals is gone, so you will notice a mix of print here — some pages laser printed, some on a dot matrix. If the situation changes, I'll certainly reconsider my decision. I am now planning to go to a small occasional newsletter as a sort of replacement — SUPRA News.

This issue was almost three weeks late because of a personal tragedy — Kellie and I lost our baby which was due in November. I want to dedicate this issue to the loving memory of our precious Angela Ann...

Mark

Britain's Haunted Airfields: The Ghosts of RAF Scampton

by Mark Gardner

RAF Scampton in England has had a long and quite distinguished history of service to its country and monarch. It was from here that Guy Gibson and his brave No. 617 Squadron took off on their famous Dambuster Raid on May 16, 1943. The raid was a success and Guy Gibson was awarded the Victoria Cross for his efforts. Today the base is the home of the Red Arrows, Britain's wonderful Royal Air Force aerobatic team, the counterparts of America's Thunderbirds. The pride of those stationed there is evident. It is a choice assignment.

Despite all the glory and honor belonging to this base — past and present — it also has another honor, though of a less desirable nature. Unlike most active duty RAF posts, this base has resident ghosts. There is no abandoned control tower, rusting hangar or crumbling runway here. It is very much an active part of Great Britain's national defense.

The stories associated with the hauntings at Scampton are varied. There are several types of haunts going on at the same place, although not at the same time. There have been unexplained happenings, sightings of phantom flyers, but the most common occurrence seems to be the regular appearance of a silent, spectral black labrador dog.

The ghost dog has been seen around the base off and on since the Second World War. Its normal hangout is the area in and around the Officer's Mess. It has long been accepted that the phantom dog can only be Nigger, the black labrador mascot owned by Guy Gibson, that was sadly struck and killed by an automobile just hours before the Dambuster Raid. The dog was buried on the base and a plaque still marks his resting spot to this very day. It

appears that the dog is still watching over the base or, perhaps, looking for his long-dead master, who died later in the war in a somewhat mysterious, fiery crash in Holland on September 20, 1944. But that's another story...

In addition to the better-known ghost dog, there have been a few sightings of a phantom pilot in full flying gear. These started sometime in the 1950's; I have found no references to wartime sightings of him. He is thought to be a lost crewman from one of the Lancaster bombers lost in the latter part of the war.



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UFOs: Extraterrestrial or Terrestrial?

(Part III)

by Mark Gardner

In two other issues of *Elsewhen* I discussed this subject and put forward the idea that those extremely few *genuine* UFO sightings—after all the misidentifications, hoaxes, and hallucinations are thrown out—are military (and maybe civilian) test aircraft of very earthly origin. I showed, for example, that if the Nazis could come up with some of the things they did fifty years ago, it is not difficult to imagine some of what could have been achieved since then.

If we explore this further, we can see a connection between a number of items. Is it really any coincidence that the "Modern UFO Era" began in 1947, the same year the U.S. Air Force was established and that Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in the X-1? Indeed, this was the very same period when the huge boom in military and civilian test projects began. Research into rockets and jets looked as if it would lead to the demise of propeller-driven aircraft. Dreams of flying wings and wingless aircraft were also being pursued vigorously.

I have come to the conclusion that the 1947 Kenneth Arnold flying saucer sighting near Mt. Rainier, Washington, was an atmospheric optical illusion. Other pilots in later years have seen a similar type of phenomenon in this area of the Cascades and other mountainous areas around the world. This atmospheric phenomenon can produce solid-looking 'shimmering discs' (as seen from a distance). A pilot acquaintance experienced this phenomenon. He sighted a silvery disk—your typical flying saucer—one day while flying his Cessna 152 in the Mount St. Helens area. He called to another aircraft in the distance. From their angle, they could not see a 'disc'. Some people think Mr. Arnold made the whole thing up back in 1947, but I do not agree with them. I think he was simply mistaken in his identification of 'silvery saucers' as *physical* things.

I believe most, if not all, of those 'silvery saucer' sightings where witnesses see something, yet nothing appears on local radar screens, are of this atmospheric optical illusion. Since it is a very transitory phenomenon, any change in atmospheric conditions, sunlight, or witness angle can cause the 'saucer' to suddenly vanish. In late August 1992 I talked with a man from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) who had a display about the National Weather Service. I asked about unusual atmospheric phenomena and he briefly listed things such as "angels" (not the spirits) that are rare and still the subjects of much debate. He said a colleague at NOAA is writing a

book about rarely seen atmospheric phenomena, tentatively to be called *Out of the Clear Blue*. I look forward to it and think it will be very interesting, along the lines of the Sourcebook Project's useful publications.

As for those very rare objects which have a genuine physical presence, I believe I have already established that there is enough evidence to show an earthly origin, although they are not necessarily from our time (ie, the future). So we are much more likely to experience visits from *extraterrestrials* than *extraterrestrials*.

Many of the ET proponents advanced their flawed case for the extraterrestrial origin because of the high weirdness associated with many alleged sightings. They claim that since the factors involved seem to be *too strange* to have a *terrestrial* origin, they *have to be* from a different planet. This is a naïve assumption we cannot seem to shake after many decades. Once the ET thesis took hold, it passed on into popular culture. People are always more likely to believe in the sensational rather than the rational (and perhaps boring) explanation; bug-eyed space monsters are more appealing than secret test aircraft. As a child I believed UFOs were from outer space, but I grew up and learned to examine the evidence as a whole and put together a theory that fit the bulk of the legitimate evidence much better. One of my favorite quotes is:

"It is a capital mistake to theorize before you have all the evidence. It biases the judgement."

Sherlock Holmes, *A Study in Scarlet*

This is very true. Too many people settle on an opinion or theory as soon as they see a pattern or trend in data or evidence, ignoring everything from then on. Boy, is that a major blunder! I am saddened at all of the people living in ignorance caused by their own failure to see the whole body of evidence. The Jumping-to-the-Wrong-Conclusion Syndrome is a common thread through human history and has led to persecution, inquisitions, suppression of knowledge, witch hunts, and more than a few wars.

I think that much of the evidence that seems to support an ET origin actually *disproves* it and quite soundly. The distances between the stars make contact between two species of sentient life *extremely* unlikely. Most people have no concept of the incredible vastness of space. Then, what is the chance that beings from another planet would be anything at all like a human, much less have two arms, two legs, two eyes, etc., like us. Here the possibility drops so close to zero that one is tempted to use that dreaded word 'impossible'. So I believe no genuine humanoid UFOs (if there are any) can be of an ET origin. Much of the technology of these so-called aliens seems to be simply 'futurized' earthly technology. Although the laws of physics are the same universe-wide, engineering and technology need not be so. As a matter of fact, I would

suggest that *real* ET technology would be nothing recognizable and could not be described by humans. Again, any beings advanced enough to be able to travel safely between the stars would definitely not crash and die here in some desert; 'crashed saucers' disprove that notion. Flying vehicles of such superiority should be fault-free or indestructible. I cannot imagine how a lightning strike could destroy a flying saucer or how two of these vehicles could accidentally collide, given a much more advanced technology. But *man-made* aircraft do crash, because our technology is nowhere near an interstellar flight level.

Also, this growing abduction by ETs phenomenon has some big holes in it, especially the fact that they are reported at all. I am sure any beings able to master space travel certainly would have mastered the simpler art of erasing memories from their victims. If I was one of the grey-skinned space-perverts, molesting helpless humans, I would definitely not want my victims to go away remembering *anything*. Leaving witnesses could eventually lead to us humans gaining enough knowledge to be a threat to the safety and survival of these aliens.

I would be more willing to believe in the reality of abductions if people found unexplainable marks on their bodies and subsequent hypnosis revealed a total blank—no fantastic story about grey, slant-eyed aliens and medical experiments. Even the value of hypnosis is still being debated. The human brain is more complicated than we'll ever be able to completely comprehend. (I am one of those rare individuals who cannot be hypnotized, despite the herculean attempts of several 'professionals' over the years.) Any delving into the brain, be it the conscious, subconscious, or unconscious mind, should always be taken very cautiously. I feel a bit uneasy about these continuing attempts to drag out 'submerged memories' from alleged abductees. I wonder if this doesn't cause more trauma and damage to the mental health of these people than help them. In a classic case of twisted logic, some abduction proponents claim that because skeptics have not been able to disprove the reality of abductions, that proves them to be legitimate. Whoa! Then they add that the similarities of the abduction accounts from many different people who've never met proves that it is real. Wrong again. You see, I am willing to bet that not one single alleged abductee didn't previously have some basic knowledge of what a UFO is and had not seen at least one science fiction movie. This is part of contemporary culture and has 'contaminated' everyone's memories. Just about anyone in the late 20th Century from anywhere who has been 'Westernized' has the elements in their heads from which an abduction scenario can be drawn out under the right conditions. The brain stores every experience we've ever had, although we consciously remember only a small fraction of this vast repository. Cryptomnesia is where forgotten memories and knowledge are used by the mind. A perfect example of this

is someone who only speaks English being regressed to a 'past life' and suddenly speaking another language. Through careful research into the person's childhood, it is revealed that when just a toddler, their family had lived next door to a woman who spoke that language. The child heard and memorized it, yet did not remember it consciously.

I suggest that someone who was raised isolated from much of 20th Century culture will never be 'abducted' because they do not have the unconscious material to draw an abduction experience from. This is borne out by the example of me finding absolutely no evidence of there having been a UFO abduction within any of the Amish communities. Without cars, TVs, radios, VCRs, or even electricity, these people deliberately choose to live a simpler life more like 19th Century. I did deep research into the Amish for a research paper in college. Since I speak German and respect these gentle folk immensely, I was trusted enough to be welcomed into several Amish homes, which is rare honor.

The abduction enthusiasts claim that this is a truly world-wide phenomenon with nearly identical elements appearing in virtually every culture and socio-economic group. This is an absolutely false and misleading statement. Yes, abductions have been reported in different places, but there have often been quite divergent details. One should take with a grain of salt anything said by someone making a living out from the abduction phenomenon, since they have a vested interest. Although people like Budd Hopkins and Dr. Leo Sprinkle appear to have a genuine interest in the abductees they deal with, there are quite a few who are obviously preying on these people to earn a living. This is really abhorrent to me. I wish we could pass a law to protect people from these opportunists with dreams of best-selling books and lucrative lecture tours in their heads. But I guess this is to be expected, since it is human nature to take advantage of others.

If these abductions are creations of the mind, why and for what reason? There have been any number of excellent theories to explain them. One of the most interesting I heard was equating the abduction process with prenatal and childbirth trauma—somewhat possible. Another more likely explanation has to do with variations on theme of the mind creating a fantasy abduction to shield itself from the trauma of some other actual experience that was too painful to accept. Some researchers have supposedly found an extremely high rate of past sexual or child abuse amongst abductees, as one would expect. It's less painful for the mind to dehumanize the experience by having an alien do something to them than for them to remember "uncle" molesting them as a child or "a strange man" assaulting them as an adult. It makes sense, since many abductees claim continuing experiences since childhood, while others only started being 'abducted' as an adult.

(Continued on Page 16)

Was Atlantis Real?

by Hugh H. Trotti

Can the quarrel about the subject of Atlantis between non-believers and believers be based at least in part upon a misunderstanding? We shall see if it is possible to rehabilitate the concept of Atlantis in such a way as to reflect real, historical events.

Early in the 6th Century B.C., a traveler from Athens arrived in Egypt. Solon, the famous Athenian lawgiver, had left town so as to not be pressured or forced to alter any of the legal changes he had made for Athens. He was told an interesting story by the priests of the land.

In short, that tale was this: Nine thousand years previously, attacking invaders from somewhere outside the Straits of Gibraltar ("The Pillars of Herakles" to the Greeks), appeared in the Mediterranean and attempted to conquer the coastal parts of that sea in order to found an empire. They were only stopped by the heroic efforts of early Athenians. But both the invaders and the Athenians suffered during that time, for in one awful night the home base of the strangers sank into the sea, and their Athenian opponents lost an army that was engulfed by the earth. The attacking forces were from the island of "Atlantis", which now was no more. Originally founded in an idyllic spot by a god, Atlantis was populated by a superior sort of people that had degenerated morally over the ages to the point where Zeus and the other gods visited a terrible punishment upon them.

Noteworthy in Plato's account of the island¹ is the description of bulls and their importance to the rulers of Atlantis, and the picture he (or the Egyptian priests) presents of a place surrounded and cut through by canals. Yet another element of interest is the statement that one could reach a continent past Atlantis by using some islands beyond that island as stopping-places. Finally, Atlantis itself is said to be larger than Asia plus Libya.

At least one thing in this account does seem to be a problem — the date of 9,000 years before Solon's time. Solon was active about 100 years before the battle of Marathon. The Egyptian priests' date would amount to a time 11,590 or so years ago — before Egypt was a nation, and even before the rise of the Sumerians in Mesopotamia around 6,000 or more years ago (the latter being the earliest civilization that we know of). Even the believers in the story of Atlantis are uncomfortable with such an ancient date. They often drop a zero, to produce "900" years, the idea being that ancient scribes often inflated numbers unduly by error or on purpose. Since ancient books were

individually copied by hand, such errors would not be surprising. The date produced by subtraction — about 1490 or 1500 B.C. — was close to the date that scholars had put for the volcanic eruption of the Greek island Thera (today's Santorini) north of Crete, and the purported overthrow of a native Cretan civilization called the Minoans (named after King Minos of legend). The doubts about inflated numbers is legitimate and not just an arbitrary change in the textual evidence. For instance, no scholar believes that Xerxes of Persia invaded Greece with an army of 1,700,000, as Herodotus wrote². That figure is usually reduced considerably by those who study such matters.

But now new evidence seems to be emerging³ that the volcanic events that created problems for the Minoans/Cretans may have taken place earlier — perhaps in 1628 B.C. or so.⁴ In any case, the date remains a problem.

Apart from the date, an important barrier to belief in Atlantis as having been based in reality would be the huge size of the island. That size is so large as to lead to the phrase "lost continent of Atlantis" in the writings of those concerned to write about the question. Why do they say "lost continent" when Plato wrote specifically about a "lost island"?⁵

The answer to this last question may revive the whole question of the reality or non-reality of Atlantis. That answer is this: *Our "Asia" is not the same as the "Asia" of the ancient writers.* When we say "Asia", we mean a massive continent that stretches from Europe eastward all the way to the shores of the Pacific Ocean. *The ancient writers meant a part of what is modern Turkey when they used the word "Asia".* The Greeks may have meant only the old kingdom of Lydia,⁶ and the Romans meant the kingdom of Pergamum they inherited in the last will and testament of that kingdom's ruler (again, a part of Turkey).⁷ So we must conceive of a part of Turkey added with Libya to reach the size of Atlantis. How big was "Libya"? We cannot answer this either from the account. However, it is entirely possible that "Libya" in this context means simply Cyrenaica — a small kingdom west of Egypt on the Mediterranean coast. The meaning of "Libya" varies, sometimes meaning the whole northern coast of Africa, and sometimes just a part of that length. Let us assume that "Libya" indicates a smaller part of Africa, just west of Egypt. If we add a small part of Turkey to such an area, we do not arrive at an area great enough to be a "lost continent", but only an area which might fit a large island. Sicily might fit such a size, though it may not fit other elements in Plato's tale. But, while Crete is not very large north-to-south, its southern east-to-west coast facing Egypt is fairly long — producing the impression of an island of considerable size. We recall that it was Egypt that produced our story. If Crete is a part of Atlantis or even the thing itself, what is the "mysterious continent"? Perhaps it is Eurasia — the combination of Europe and Asia which may be reached from Crete via intermediate islands north of that island.

Scientists and scholars are unanimous that no submerged lost continent can exist at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. Now, since we know that Atlantis is *not supposed to be a continent*, that objection that loomed so large before no longer has validity. But it is true that the placement of the island beyond the Straits of Gibraltar is still a problem. There is a slim chance that the references to the location of "Atlantis" indicate some early knowledge of the existence of the New World in ancient times (the "continent past Atlantis" and to be reached from it being the New World itself); but that interpretation, though it has led many writers to examine the possibility, seems somewhat doubtful. And, of course, the given dated of events in Plato's text remains open to question.

Most scholars hold that Atlantis never existed,⁸ and that the story was intended by Plato to teach some sort of lesson. He never finished the story, leaving posterity to guess at the incomplete record. But he did say that the story was true.⁹

Why do we believe "Atlantis" may have been an island or a collection of islands *inside* the Mediterranean, including Crete and Thera, and not in the Atlantic Ocean, as Plato said? When the Minoan palace at Knossos was found and excavated by Sir Arthur Evans, a very impressive bull-mural was found. And more than a few "horns of consecration" carved from stone and seeming to represent bulls' horns were discovered. Decades later, the excavations at Santorini (ex-Thera), located north of Crete, have revealed wall murals (works of art) in the "Minoan" style. The later Greeks wrote that earlier in their day, King Minos had colonized many islands (including the Cyclades) to further a lucrative sea trade.¹⁰ It is possible that the Minoan "empire" may have been an economic empire, not a political one.

There is another reason for our belief. About the year 1200 B.C., large raiding fleets attacked Egypt and probably other places around the Mediterranean. These raiders, the so-called "Peoples of the Sea", may have overthrown many of the Mycenaean sites on the Greek mainland, including the southwest kingdom of Pylos, the home of the old leader Nestor from Homer's *Iliad*. Pylos was wiped out very suddenly, perhaps in an attack from the sea. We might remark here that so far as we know, Athens was the only Mycenaean city to escape being overthrown by whatever overtook the other Mycenaean sites.

When they attacked Egypt, the pharaoh of the time defeated the sea peoples, some of whom then settled (or were settled by the pharaoh) along the coast of Canaan to become the "Philistines" of biblical fame.¹¹

Though these raiders may have been composed of different peoples from many Greek islands and perhaps the Greek mainland, it seems likely that Cretans (called "Keftui" by the Egyptians) would have been among them. This attack took place over four hundred years after the violent eruption of a volcano on the island of Thera — but it is a real and historical event.

The scientist Pellegrino contends that the terrible eruption of the volcano on the island of Thera is the source for the Atlantis story insofar as its disaster is concerned, and he presents various horrifying examples of volcanic destruction.¹² But, like other analysts before him, he is not aware of the "island" solution to the varying meanings of the word "Asia", and he and other writers have not been aware of the attack of the "Peoples of the Sea" in connection with the problem of Atlantis. These two historical factors we present now for the first time, in the belief that they shed light on the Atlantis question.

While Thera did not completely sink beneath the Mediterranean, its eruption did produce great tidal waves that washed up against Turkey and Cyprus, as well as a terrific explosion. Part of the island was blown away, but the people living there seem to have left before the final eruption — so that the ancient town being excavated seems thus far to have been empty. When the actual explosion happened it must have been a startling event, understandably imprinting itself on the legends and experiences of Mediterranean peoples. In his book contending that the fate of the island Thera is the source of the Atlantis story, Pellegrino stated that the explosion would have been the "...loudest sound ever heard by human ears"¹³ and that a crater at least a mile deep would have been formed, with the sea rushing into it as a gigantic and awesome waterfall. He notes that the Greek word "Thera" means "fear".¹⁴

One interesting item in Plato's tale is the claim by the Egyptian priest that Athens was the only place to offer real resistance to the foreign raiders whose widespread devastation was known as far as Egypt. When we remember that Athens was the only Mycenaean center to escape the dark age ruin and overthrow, that fact might offer (if it's not a coincidence) some tenuous support to the historical "reality" of Atlantis — another slim thread in a fabric which claims our interest. (Should we think here of Theseus' fight against the Minotaur?)

Stiebing's carefully reasoned discussion of the Atlantis question raised the possibility that various accounts and descriptions abroad in the Mediterranean world of Plato's day might have suggested certain descriptive passages about Atlantis, and so entered the surviving text.¹⁵ He also contends that the idea of linking Thera's disaster with Atlantis should be rejected¹⁶ — a view which a majority of scholars hold.

If it is legitimate to gather divergent elements from Plato's world and then consider that they may have suggested his description of Atlantis, it ought to also be legitimate to gather divergent elements of real events from history to account for the story. Six such elements are provided in this article: (1) the volcanic explosion and resulting tidal waves; (2) the sea attack on Egypt (and probably other Mediterranean coasts); (3) the mention of the bull's importance in Atlantis; (4) the fact that Athens escaped the destruction that brought on the Greek "Dark Ages" after the collapse of the other known Mycenaean

sites. Of course, Athenians may have joined the fleets of the "Sea Peoples", as well as fought them, as in Plato's account of them repelling the Atlantic invaders. The point is that the "Sea Peoples" did actually exist¹⁷; and (5) Plato wrote that the Atlantis tale was true.

Finally, there is a sixth argument that was proposed by one of the Greek scholars interested in the subject — perhaps Marinatos, the excavator of Thera. This was that in Plato's story the same disaster that sank Atlantis "in the Atlantic Ocean" had also swallowed up an Athenian army in an earthquake. This simultaneous action argues for Atlantis being near to Athens instead of far away in the Atlantic.

The pointers to Minoan Crete as Atlantis or a part of it have been known ever since the excavations of Sir Arthur Evans. But here we add two new strong factors not brought forward before: the knowledge that ancient "Asia" was only a western portion of modern Turkey and not our present large continent, so that it is not really difficult to find land that is "larger than Asia plus" part or even all of North Africa; and the more modern knowledge of the attack of the Peoples of the Sea, which was engraved in stone in Egypt, though it took place some 400+ years after the Thera explosion. There were widespread attacks by some "power" outside Egypt, even as Plato recounts in the priest's story, though they took place centuries after the great disaster. The point (made by Marinatos?) seems supportive and logical, since an island sinking in the Atlantic could have little to do with an army at or near Athens. These considerations strengthen the case for Atlantis being Crete + Thera + other islands of the Mediterranean Sea.

There may be more indications or clues to support a Minoan Crete/Thera/other-islands identification as the "legendary" place. We know that Crete contained many palaces which appear to be different ancient areas of authority in the island's past; Plato stated that there were periodic gatherings of the ruling classes of Atlantis from different areas for ritual purposes (bulls were involved there, too).

Looking north from Egypt (the apparent source of the "Atlantis" tale), we see that from Crete (or Thera) we may reach further islands and then a continent. The landmass called Eurasia (Europe + Asia) is easily larger than part of Turkey and all of North Africa, for that matter. Despite the evident dangers of using "selected evidence", the description "larger than Asia plus Libya" looks like it fits a continent — Atlantis was an island. It is incorrect to talk, as we often do, of the "lost continent of Atlantis" instead of the "lost island of Atlantis".

It is possible that we are untangling an historic mix-up here caused by the passage of a story down the centuries before the advent of Plato and classical Greece. It is conceivable that the size of Atlantis referred to the outer boundaries of a Minoan economic/trade empire such as that of the later Phoenicians, but that theory of the size problem seems somewhat strained.

We will persist in contending that those places made up the original "Atlantis" of Plato, and that events of great magnitude — though of differing times — impressed themselves upon the Egyptians and other peoples around the Mediterranean coasts. And that, though described in a somewhat composite and idealized way, "Atlantis", in a real historical sense, truly existed.

FURTHER READING

Mavor, James W., Jr., *Voyage to Atlantis*, Rochester (Vermont): Park Street Press, 1990 paperback.

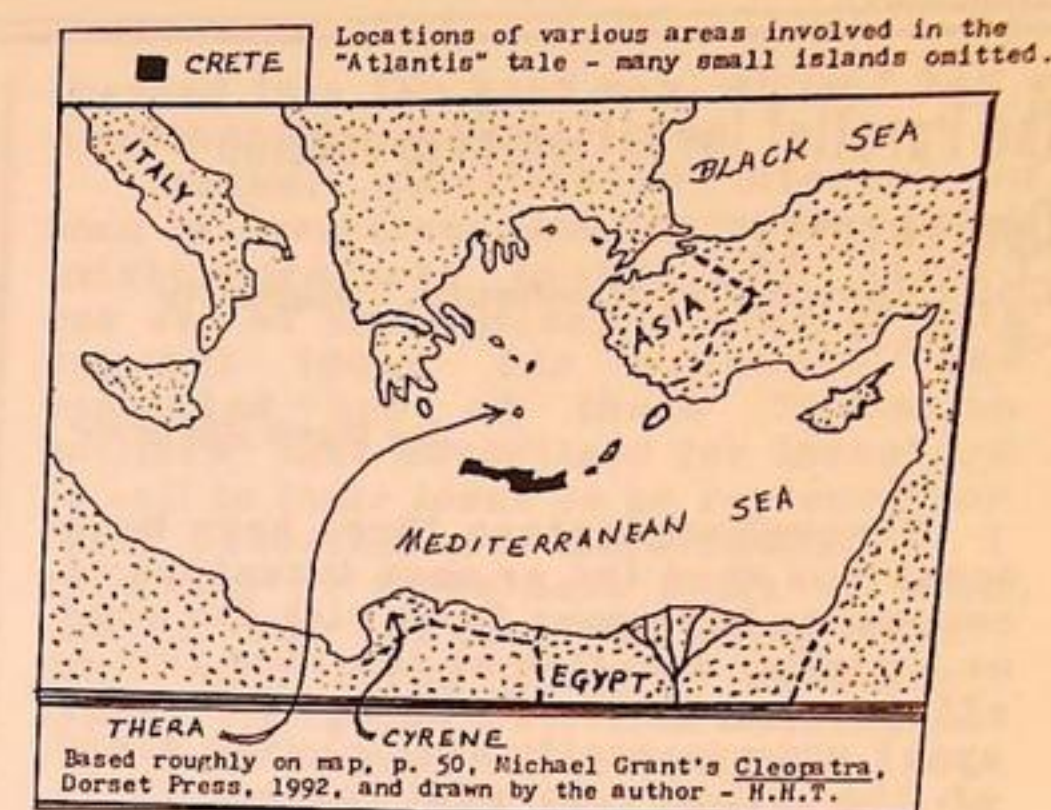
Pellegrino, Charles, *Unearthing Atlantis: An Archaeological Odyssey*, New York: Random House, 1991.

Though most scholars do not accept Thera as a source for the "Atlantis" tale, the above two authors are serious scientists and writers who do accept that attribution (though neither is an anthropologist or archaeologist). H.H.T.

NOTES

1. Plato's two dialogues concerning the subject of Atlantis, his "Critias" and "Timaeus", may be found in convenient form in a Penguin paperback edition: *Timaeus and Critias*, New York: Penguin, 1983.
2. Herodotus, *The Persian Wars*, New York: Random House Modern Library, (no date), p. 522.
3. For instance, *Science News*, August 22, 1987, p. 121, has a claim for around 1645 B.C. for the volcanic event that has been placed earlier in 1500 B.C. or 1450 B.C. Those of us who consider that the "Trojan War" may have been real will welcome some correction of early Greek dates — since modern findings indicate that the Mycenaean culture collapsed about 1200 B.C., it is odd to find Mycenaeans (Minoans) supposedly attacking Troy ten years later (1190 B.C. being a "traditional" date for that war).
4. Pellegrino, Charles, *Unearthing Atlantis: An Archaeological Odyssey*, New York: Random House, 1991, pp. 22, 82, 235, and mentioning other sources in support. Various other dates from the middle of the late 17th Century B.C. have emerged recently, but Pellegrino contends that the volcanic convulsion is now confirmed at 1628 B.C.
5. Plato, "island", *op. cit.*, p. 39.
6. Grant, Michael, *The Ancient Mediterranean*, New York: Meridian Books, 1988 paperback, p. 86.

7. Grant, Michael, *Cleopatra*, New York: Dorset Press, 1992, p. 10. See also his map on p. 50, which shows that area of what is now Turkey.
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9. Plato, *op. cit.*, p. 39.
10. Thucydides, *The Complete Writings of Thucydides*, New York: Random House Modern Library, 1951, pp. 5, 7.
11. Gitin, Seymour, "The Last Days of the Philistines", *Archaeology*, May/June 1992, pp. 26-31. The Philistines were major producers of olive oil under Assyrian lordship until the Babylonians completely defeated all their towns by about 600 B.C. and they disappeared from history as a separate people.
12. Pellegrino, *op. cit.* He gives credit to the scholar K.T. Frost, who published the link between the civilization of Crete and the tale of Atlantis in a scholarly journal in the first decade of the 20th Century (pp. 39-40, 298). Of course, now we know that the since discovered island of Thera was a part of the Cretan/Minoan/Mycenaean civilization; the art works are quite distinctive.
13. Pellegrino, *op. cit.*, p. 288.
14. *Ibid.*, p. 282.
15. Stiebing, *op. cit.*, pp. 54-56. We might add to his mention of Plato's trip to Sicily, the existence of the complex Mesopotamian canal systems, for possible imaginative accretions to the Atlantis description.
16. *Ibid.*, p. 51.
17. Sandars, N.K., *The Sea Peoples: Warriors of the Ancient Mediterranean*, London: German Rev. Ed. paperback, printed in the GDR, 1987. Scholarly description of the mysterious "Sea Peoples", with mention of two attacks upon Egypt by this body of mixed peoples, occurring a few years before and a few years after 1200 B.C. (p. 111.)



Thoughts on Stonehenge

by Mark Gardner

One can never adequately put into words the feeling one experiences when arriving at the scene of a famous place they have wanted to visit their whole life. Just as I felt years ago when visiting Loch Ness, a similar feeling overwhelmed me when that tour bus came around a bend in the road and there it stood -- Stonehenge! Anyone at all interested in history or mysterious places must count this site as one of the most important to visit. Indeed, it is to a forerunner, archaeologist or historian a true pilgrimage.

The day was mostly cloudy as our bus pulled up and we made our way through the admissions/gift shop area. I do not know if the other visitors that day were all that excited, but I know I was. A slight breeze caressed my face as I made my way up the walk to the almost circular path around the ancient structure. It is a great pity that visitors are no longer allowed to walk amongst the stones themselves, but that may add to their survival. My fears about a fence I was told about before my trip ruining photographic opportunities were unfounded. I was able to get good pictures from different angles about 3/4 of the circumference of the structure -- the walk does not make a full 360° circle around the stones.

Close to our required departure time, the sun finally broke through the clouds and I was able to get about half a roll of film with the ancient stones brightly lit. I shall never forget that day for the rest of my life!

The Parallel Invention/Composition Controversy:

Coincidence, Cryptomnesia, Telepathy or Theft?

by Mark Gardner

Throughout history there have been occasions when two or more inventors or composers have come forth with the same or a similar creation at the same time — often having lived substantial distances apart and apparently having never heard of the other. In most cases, it is assumed that one stole the idea from the other. These situations have led to recriminations, lawsuits, character assassination, and other unfortunate incidents. In some cases both parties end up being losers, although it is more normal that one is left in ruins, while the other prospers. Most of these situations were due to coincidence.

Completely parallel inventions at great distances appear to be an extremely rare phenomenon but, by no means, unheard of. A good example of this are the pyramids of the Middle East and the Americas. Believers in the Atlantis myth try to use this as one of their strongest pieces of evidence. They claim survivors took their architectural style both east and west after the destruction of Atlantis. Well, this does not wash at all with the substantial archaeological evidence we have. The evolution of the pyramid in the Middle East, leading to the great triumphs in Egypt, is well known. The first pyramids here were basically huge cairns (rock piles) or artificial hills. Over untold centuries these led to the mastaba or step pyramid to the flat-sided pyramids we are most familiar with. Many experts feel that the first rough pyramids were built as substitute mountains by people who had worshipped mountain gods but had later migrated to flatlands. Where does Atlantis fit into this, when the history of the Middle East pyramid goes back way beyond even the proposed Atlantis (unless you accept the erroneous, exaggerated figure of 9,000 years before Solon given by Plato,

caused by an earlier scribe's error)? So Atlanteans couldn't have introduced "true pyramids" either direction and, therefore, the radically different styles of pyramids built many centuries apart on two separate continents probably developed independently for different reasons.

A famous musical case of so-called copyright infringement involved the songs "He's So Fine" and "My Sweet Lord". When George Harrison's "My Sweet Lord" came out, the copyright owners of "He's So Fine" filed suit against him. The judgement eventually came out against the former Beatle. In my opinion, this was gross miscarriage of justice. The songs are only vaguely similar in my opinion. (Pick any two rap songs at random and they seem more alike than these two!) The former is a doo-wop love song from the 60's sung by a girl group, while the second was a "religious" song from the 70's sung by a solo male with mixed-gender background vocals. The lyrics are not especially alike. After the judgement, experts claimed that Harrison hadn't actually consciously "stolen" the earlier song, rather it was unconsciously in his memory (cryptomnesia) and became part of the song he eventually wrote. I think this baloney! Harrison's own song writing ability is clearly obvious. I think this was a pure case of greed, clever lawyers, twisting of evidence and more than a little coincidence. If Myron L. Tudwiller from Spudville, Iowa, had written "My Sweet Lord" instead of a famous former Beatle with big bucks, the suit never would have been filed or won.

One of my uncultivated hobbies has been writing song lyrics. I've only written a couple dozen in my whole life and many of these were written for a rather limited audience (usually for one particular person). I can't compose the music well enough to do anything with the lyrics I come up with, although I usually have a melody of some kind in the back of my head while writing. In my personal example of the coincidence or parallel thought process, I compare lyrics I wrote in early 1988 with those of one of 1992's biggest hits, "Achy Breaky Heart" by Don Van Tress, a song I like:

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Elsewhen

My Lonely Broken Heart
by Mark Gardner

(chorus)

Don't you break my heart,
My lonely broken heart —
It really can't take the strain.
'Cause if you break my heart,
My lonely broken heart —
I'll surely die from the pain.

Achy Breaky Heart
©1992 by Don Van Tress

(chorus)

Don't tell my heart,
My achy breaky heart,
I just don't think he'd understand.
And if you tell my heart,
My achy breaky heart,
He might blow up and kill this man.

Even someone without any musical background should see the obvious similarity between two songs written miles apart by people unknown to each other. There is absolutely no chance of plagiarism or theft, because I wrote the song in 1988 and nobody else ever saw it, and I didn't hear Billy Ray Cyrus' platinum-selling version of "Achy Breaky Heart" until early in 1992. Other than the choruses, the songs are really quite dissimilar. Still, since I never set my song to music or copyrighted it in 1988, if I were to do something with it now I would probably be treated to a lawsuit for copyright infringement regardless of whether mine was written before or not (since I have no definite proof anyway).

On the other hand, many hundreds of songs have been stolen from young or naïve songwriters by unscrupulous songwriters or performers. This is usually because the victim never copyrighted his work before sending it unsolicited to some publishing firm, well-known songwriter or performer. This is why I warn people not to send their music and/or lyrics to companies that advertise they will "critique" budding songwriters' work (often for a price). The songwriter is likely to get ripped off in this circumstance. I

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learned this the hard way, since I had a somewhat similar experience.

Another uncultivated interest of mine is inventions and improvements on existing products. In 1985, right after I got out of the military, I came up with several ideas for products and contacted one of those "invention hotlines" that advertized for inventors to call in their ideas to be reviewed for their potential and marketability. I submitted my three best ideas at that time to them — a diet plan using color-coded meal cards (inspired by color-coded food group nutrition flashcards for grade school children I had seen about 15 years before), plastic collapsible and expandable storage containers (inspired by a combination of accordions and my mother having previously sold Tupperware), and an electric bottle opener (thought up on my own while still in the Navy). You can't copyright an idea and I wasn't quite up to the task of going through the time and expense of a patent search. The organization (apparently no longer in existence) responded that none of my ideas seemed to have any real potential at that time. In other words, "Thanks but no thanks!" Well, imagine my surprise a couple of years later when Richard Simmons introduced his Deal-A-Meal diet cards which have made him a multi-millionaire. Very much like my own earlier idea! Not long after that I started seeing commercials for the Popeet storage containers which collapse and expand. This was exactly what I had designed! I don't know when these other products were first thought of, but it is very curious to me. I was naïve to trust that "invention hotline". Of course, this could be yet another example of parallel ideas or coincidences. I haven't seen electric bottle openers on the market yet. If you see them for sale in the near future, remember that you heard of them here first! Now I keep my inventions and improvements to myself for my own use.

Of course, coincidence is a very common occurrence in the world around us. And it is always possible that unconscious telepathy picks up the idea from another's mind.

Blood from the Sky: Do Space-Time Vampires Exist?

by Frederick Wisdom

Does the sky ever rain blood? That seems a strange thought, unexpected claim or "fact" one would be inclined to dismiss without much thought. But Charles Fort, the compiler of strange and unusual things, lists some circumstances of just this happening. Looking through serious periodicals, newspaper accounts, and other sources from previous centuries, he mentioned more than one case of "blood rain" in his controversial work *The Book of the Damned*. By "damned" he meant damned by science; damned in the sense of being thought impossible and therefore to be disregarded.

We might file his report of this phenomenon away in our minds as a mysterious curiosity, along with other unlikely claims, but we sometimes come across claims of blood from the sky not having come from Fort's books.

For instance, Richard the Lion-Hearted built his castle, "Chateau Gaillard", in a strategic position in France to protect some of his inherited lands there. The castle's construction was quite expensive, as one might imagine. When it "rained blood" upon the edifice being built, it was interpreted in a religious sense as some sort of punishment or divine displeasure. Never mind what it "meant" — did it really occur?

Also, the Roman historian Livy has an account of a rain of blood in 169 B.C.² The Romans kept careful records of what they called "prodigies" — sweating statues, strange births, lightning strikes, spontaneous altar fires, and other noteworthy oddities. They believed that such things "foretold" events to come or, at least, had some esoteric meaning. They had as many of these records as the later medieval clerics had notations of "miracles", if not more.

Our ancestors were credulous, superstitious, uneducated, and generally less sophisticated than we are (or so many people assume). We do possess the great advantages of broad educational opportunities and general access to various sources of information not available in earlier ages. Given these things, how should we evaluate the written accounts which have come down to us from the past? Specifically, how about accounts of blood falling from the sky? We're tempted to say: "Superstitious hogwash!"

But wait... Though many people were uneducated and lived in rural areas in the agricultural past, and some of these may have produced such accounts, there is a point to

remember: Such people lived "much closer to nature" than most of today's suburban or urban dwellers. If they said the "sky rained blood", can we be so sure they were wrong? They would have butchered the occasional chicken, pig, cow or deer. Because of that they might well have been more of an expert in the recognition of such a substance than we are.

Such accounts that descend to us from the past would have been written down and preserved by educated, intelligent, and relatively sophisticated people. Only the educated could write at all; the medieval cleric who wrote down a peasant's description of a fall of blood would have belonged to this educated elite. This would also have been true of a Roman author. While the former might find some religious reason for blood falling and the latter would be generally prone to describe various "prodigies", both groups would represent more learning than the general populace. The sources of information used by both could well have included first-hand descriptions by peasants — the very people most likely to know exactly what blood looked and smelled like.

What could cause such a thing — if it exists? There are reports among people called Ufologists that such blood falls have been analyzed and found to be ungulate (hoofed animal) blood. We are also aware of claims of cow carcasses found mutilated and often strangely empty of blood, as well as reports of carcasses apparently dropped from above with no footprints or tracks of any kind around the location of the find. Albers has a figure of 50 tons or 108,000 pints of blood drained from cattle in 1975 alone.³

UFOs are said to sometimes contain small gray entities with tiny slits for mouths — such might make eating as we do difficult, but not *drinking*. Are we to believe that we are sometimes visited by space, dimensional, or time-travelling "vampires"? Or are we to be comforted by reports that a government-captured entity enjoys strawberry ice cream? And what are we to make of reports that autopsies on bodies of crashed UFO occupants show no digestive structures? More comfort for us?

If UFOs collect blood from cattle, why would they spill a substance which they have taken great efforts to collect? Did their analysis show it to be too diseased for their ability to purify? (It would be interesting to know if any "abductees" have low blood pressure after their "experience" — has anyone checked this? Remember, cows are not the *only* source of blood.)

Why should creatures time-travel to the past to procure food? Perhaps the old Scottish philosopher Malthus has the answer: People breed geometrically while food production only increased arithmetically — has the Earth's future run out of food? Blood is said to be a nourishing food. The African Masai tribe uses it regularly for food, but they only tap a vein without harm to the cow. Their cows represent wealth and are carefully guarded against harm.

Though time's arrow may be only in one direction, let's suppose that direction is spiral and that "arms" or sections of such spirals can sometimes come close or even overlap — producing temporary "doors" between the past and the future. The ancient Greeks and Romans (amongst others) sacrificed animals quite a lot, and much blood was spilled throughout the centuries in that way. (Whitley Streiber of *Communion* fame saw — or thought he saw — an ancient Roman running up a hill in the course of an abduction experience he described.) Still, even if time is "spiral" in structure, there might remain a problem of a "past Earth" meeting "present Earth", since our planet changes its physical location in space through the passage of time. Thus, even if time "overlapped", as it were, our present Earth might well meet "empty space" instead of a "past" or "future" Earth! In any case, how could an exact alignment of past and future be done at all? (I have in mind here the story of the two English school-teachers who seemed to visit the Versailles of the past by actually stepping into it, as they believed. That "past" was in the exact area of their "present".)

If we suppose that a UFO is from our future and is able somehow to visit us in its past, can that be the answer to the exact matching of past and future locations? When our hypothetical UFO leaves our future (its present) and visits us in our present (its past), does that "trip" create some sort of connecting path or link between locations it visits? Does the crossing of time itself bind together the point of arrival and the point of departure?

But it may be that "falls of blood" have more in common with falls of fish and other things than with UFO phenomena. One such fall, that of ice, is explained simply by our knowledge that there is considerable ice in space — what we previously thought of as "empty space". Chunks of ice that fall in the same way as meteorites do not surprise us unduly. And, of course, many ice falls have been traced back to leaking tanks on airliners. Can it be that there is a prosaic explanation for some other falls?

Nevertheless, blood fell before the advent of airplanes, and various things fell out of the sky in ancient times. In an article some time ago in *Elsewhen*, by Hugh Trotti, it was mentioned that shields fell out of the sky during the early history of Rome and various manufactured objects (a cup, a yoke, a plough, etc.) fell on the Scythian steppes of Russia. Are all of these things to be considered as "tall tales" or non-historical legend by us? Those who study the poltergeist are used to hearing of falls of stones. We may be left with the same mysteries we started with. Perhaps there is no really easy answer to our obvious questions about this most peculiar matter.

ENDNOTES

1. Gillingham, John, *Richard the Lionheart* (New York: Times Books, 1978), p. 263.

2. Livy (Titus Livius), *Rome and the Mediterranean* (London: Penguin Books, 1987), p. 546.
3. Albers, Michael D., *The Terror* (New York: Manor Books, 1979), esp. p. 84.

A Visit to Haunted York

by Mark Gardner

Years ago I was on an airplane — I've flown so many times I can't remember which trip it was — and during the course of the flight, I struck up a conversation with the gentleman sitting next to me. We both found that we had been to Great Britain several times and discussed our various visits and experiences. He casually asked me if I had ever visited the historic city of York. He was surprised that I had not and followed this by giving me a description of some of the must-see spots. Although I quickly forgot the specifics, over the years it had always stuck in the back of my head that I had to visit York, thanks to that anonymous gentleman's impressive recommendation.

When I started making plans for my vacation/research trip to Great Britain in September 1991, I decided that it was time to see if York lived up to all of the expectations I'd had over the years. On my way up to Scotland, I planned to stop over for a day and see what all the hoopla was about. On a sunny early afternoon, I stepped off the British Rail train into one of the most fascinating places I've ever been in my life! After dropping off my bags and extra things at a nice bed & breakfast away from the center of town, I set out to explore this amazing, historic city. At every turn you are greeted by centuries of history. In many ways, the center of town is still a lot like a medieval city with streets running off in every which way.

York is an ancient city, having been ruled over by Celts, Romans, Anglo-Saxons, and Vikings over the centuries. The Romans called it *Eboracum*, it was the Anglo-Saxon *Eoforwic*, but it is from the Viking name, *Jórvík* (pronounced YOUR-veek), later *Jórk*, that the modern name arose. I was pleasantly surprised, as one interested in the ancient Norsemen, to find excavated Viking structures and an excellent museum, the Jorvik Viking Centre. I spent a long time touring the reconstructed village and looking at all the bits and pieces that have been excavated. My prized souvenir is a little slice of wood from a Viking Age log, dug up from the remnants of Jorvik. (Acquired legally, I might add!)

The names of many of the streets in town recall years of Viking rule, for example: Petergate, Fossgate and Stonegate. Here the word "-gate" does not mean "an opening in a fence or wall", but rather comes from *gata*, Old Norse for "street". And even more confusing, the surviving city gates are not "gates", but "bars", for example: Micklegate Bar, Walmgate Bar and Bootham Bar. You wouldn't stop there for a drink!

Another unique place to visit is the Shambles, a narrow, cobbled lane with close-together shops and overhanging upper floors straight out of the Middle Ages. Fighting tourists from all over Europe, I managed to squeeze into a couple of the shops to look around and buy a few souvenirs. I also stopped to listen to a talented teenaged girl playing medieval music on a flute. We became acquainted and sat together briefly, chatting in King's Square. She was a charming person. Unfortunately, at some time during the remainder of my trip, I lost her name and address!

Other must-see places I tracked down were the York Minster cathedral, Archaeological Resource Centre, York Castle Museum, "The York Story" inside St. Mary's Church, Friargate Museum, Yorkshire Museum, and the York Dungeon. Also of interest are the Gothic Cathedral ruins (see bottom picture on cover). It is said that an occasional fleeting shadow of a nun or monk is seen. Another popular activity for visitors is the various "walks" offered by different groups. Unfortunately, some are given only once a week, so I missed "A Walk through Viking York" (Mondays only) and "The Snickelways of York" (Saturdays only in September). Of course, I did manage to take "The Original Ghost Walk of York", which departs nightly at 8:00 p.m. from The King's Arms Pub near Ouse Bridge! The night was clear and the group that gathered was well entertained by the charming gentleman, reminiscent of the late Robert Preston, who guided us up this gate and down that alley. He told us of hauntings and sightings in various buildings and

locations as we passed. I stuck near two young lasses from Aberdeen, Scotland, I met early in the "tour". We heard of many phantom figures, spectral nuns, ghost children and animals, unearthly noises, mysterious happenings, and how Clifford's Tower was the scene of a miraculous event many, many years before, when rebels trapped inside were spared after the building turned red and began to bleed! True or not?

After a very enjoyable hour or so, the tour broke up and I made my way back to where I was staying. As I was walking alone on unfamiliar streets, I was surprised to hear voices speaking in Turkish ahead — I was stationed in Turkey for a year in the Navy. It was very curious indeed! I came upon a street vendor selling kebabs. Now it was my turn to surprise, as I walked up to the vendor and said, "İyi akşamlar! Bir doner kebab, lütfen." It turned out he was from İzmir originally and was quite surprised to find someone who knew any of his mother tongue. Yet another case of "It's A Small World Syndrome"!

I stayed two days in York, instead of the one I had planned originally. As a matter of fact, I considered staying a third day, as I was enjoying myself so much and thought about taking the competitor's "ghost walk" for comparison, but was impatient to see the friends in Scotland I had not seen in seven years. I took tons of pictures, visited unforgettable places, met interesting people, and was thoroughly charmed by the place. At some future date, perhaps in late 1994/early 1995, I hope to go back for another and longer visit. The next time I want to bring a camcorder and twice as much photography equipment! And I plan to interview a lot of the local people for stories!

I think the best thing I can do now is to do what that anonymous gentleman on an airplane once did for me — recommend highly that you visit York, England. It will be a visit you will always remember and maybe, someday, you'll thank me for planting the suggestion in the back of your head. I know I was very impressed! You will definitely enjoy it!



Now the News

This place is reserved each issue for interesting newsclippings that our readers and contributors send in to *Elsewhen*. All clippings are retyped to make them easier to read.

...

ON THE TRAIL OF A BEASTIE

Paris — They're off to find the almasty—a big, hairy, two-legged creature living in the Caucasus mountains. More than 500 eyewitness accounts of these beasts are said to exist. Local people claim to have fed, touched and even—on rare occasions—had sex with them.

Now a Franco-Russian expedition, "Almasty '92", wants to get hard scientific proof of their existence. Adult almasties, it is said, stand about six feet high. Their arms reach down to their knees, their legs are short, and their dark-skinned bodies are covered with coarse, long, reddish-brown hair. The females have long, narrow breasts which they sometimes throw over their shoulders. Locals say they are nomadic and nocturnal, sleeping by day in caves, stables, abandoned huts or nests made from broken branches in trees. They are said to communicate by booming like bitterns.

Until fairly recently, almasties were unknown to the wider world. Publicity surrounding the Anglo-American search for the Himalayan Yeti in 1956 persuaded the Caucasians, who had previously thought their shaggy anthropoid to be of little interest, to inform the authorities. The Soviet Academy of Sciences mounted an expedition in 1958, but failed to find its quarry. It did, however stimulate the curiosity of Marie-Jeanne Koffmann, a French-born surgeon and mountaineer, who had served as an army officer in the Caucasus during World War II.

She set off to the Caucasus on her own, returning with 40 eyewitness accounts, a fascination with crypto-zoology (the study of unknown animal species) and a determination to settle the issue once and for all. With Sylvain Pallix, a journalist and film producer, Koffmann has at last been given her chance. At the age of 72, she is to lead a team of 10 Russian and four French scientists. Pallix will record their achievements—and, he hopes, their quarry—on film.

Their aim is to get close enough to an almasty to be able to anesthetize it and take skin, blood, and saliva samples. They also hope to fit their guest with a radio-transmitting bracelet to track its movements. Skeptics fear Koffmann may be disappointed. They point out that although molds of what is claimed to be an almasty footprint have been taken, no corpses or skeletons have ever been found. Besides, even if the almasty did exist, it might be on the verge of extinction.

Sightings, once fairly frequent, are now rare. The most recent was claimed in August last year by Gregory Pantchenko, a Russian zoologist and one of the expedition's members. He says he watched an almasty for a minute and a half from about 13 feet away one moonlit night.

Unfortunately—you guessed it—his camera had no flash.

(From the *San Francisco Chronicle/Examiner*, 7/12/92, PUNCH SECTION, page 5.

— Bufo Calvin)



The Bookshelf

A Study Guide to UFOs, Psychic & Paranormal Phenomena in the U.S.S.R., Antonio Huneeus, Ed., Abelard Productions, 1991 (ISBN 0-938394-84-9).

The recent changes in the former U.S.S.R. are likely to continue to have a two-edged effect on anomalistics research. The first, and negative part, is the decreased funding (in the short run) of research. The second, and beneficial part, is the "uncensoring" and increased availability of articles already published in the various republics.

It is due to the latter that we have the above book, published in 1991 by Abelard Productions. This book, edited by Ufologist Antonio Huneeus, gives Western researchers a welcome look at what their counterparts have been saying.

Not surprisingly, varied opinions are put forward in the series of translated articles in the book. There is a clearly negative piece viewing UFOs "Through the Eyes of the Cosmonauts". Although hopeful of eventual contact, they do not accept UFOs coming and leaving the atmosphere, for the simple reason that there are always cosmonauts in space, and they do not report seeing anything.

On the other hand, there is a survey of the subject by Vladimir Azhazha, with whom Jacques Vallée met on a recent trip, which would provide the *National Enquirer* with several articles. Some of the stories related in a matter-of-fact fashion include: 5 meter (16 foot) tall aliens; Buzz Aldrin having shot a movie of a 1500 meter cylinder which escorted the astronauts around the moon; the Pentagon cordoning off a crash site in Northern Brazil where 16 dwarfish UFO-naut bodies were found; Lenin chatting with H.G. Wells about extraterrestrial contact; and, at the opposite end of the spectrum from my first citation, UFO-nauts 3 centimeters (a little over an inch!) tall.

That last one may have been a result of a typo or mistranslation. The book does contain a few of both. For instance, in the article about Mokele-Mbembe, there is a reference made to biped tracks being found. This is almost certainly an error. Also, in the Cryptozoology section, there are some things which show the translator's unfamiliarity with the subject. The phonetic rendering of Bernard Heuvelmans' name is given as "Eivelmans", or so I assume from the context.

Still, despite the few flaws (a lack of index or constant source citation), the book is worthwhile, both for the indigenous reports and for the information they had about events in the Western world. For instance, in two separate cases, Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin are referred to as scientists, which is probably stretching the case considerably. Cossacks would perhaps have been a closer description of these "cowboys" (one a former rodeo rider) who took a movie of a female Sasquatch. Then again, another incident mentioned more than once involved a UFO interacting with a train, causing it to speed up, and enabling it to expend far less fuel than was normal for it.

I do recommend the book...if you can find it. I was lucky enough to just run across it in a local bookstore. There is no address given for the publishers in the book, although there is one for the author. Still, your local bookstore may be able to order it for you. Enjoy this first glimpse of what is sure to be a torrent of information to be revealed in the ruins of the Other Superpower.

Bufo Calvin

[We hope to do an article on research in the former Soviet Union in the near future. As a former Russian interpreter I'm well aware of translation problems and "Heuvelmans" is written "Erbenman" (Eivelmans) in Russian.

The Editor]

(Continued from Page 5)

There is also the strong possibility of the mind creating a fantasy punishment by 'aliens' because of guilt harbored within the victim. In other centuries people claimed kidnapping by demons and other spirits for punishment of sins, whether real or imagined. This is likely an up-to-date version of the same process. I'm willing to bet some of today's abductees would have told stories of fiery-eyed devils 300 years ago instead of grey-skinned aliens. It has to do with contemporary cultural factors.

[In March 1993, several months after I wrote this article, I was sent a copy of "Demons, Doctors, and Aliens: An Exploration into the Relationships Among Witch Trial Evidence, Sexual-Medical Traditions, and Alien Abductions" by James Pontolillo. (Order from the International Fortean Organization, address on page 19.) This is a fascinating paper, which explains what he thinks causes the abduction experience and relates it to a long line of evolving myths, misogyny, and other cultural factors. Although I think he puts too much emphasis on misogyny, I feel he is close to the explanation. I almost scrapped half of this article after reading his paper!]

Enough of abductions! Let's tackle the fact that the vast majority of 'alien' UFO-nauts are humanoids with the same basic layout as humans. If they are not of Earth that would seem an impossibility. Although the human physical layout works reasonably well for us, it is not perfect and there are any number of different arrangements that might be more efficient or logical.

There are basically five types of aliens: exactly human (usually tall and physically perfect), mostly human (MIBs, etc.), big-headed grey-skinned humanoids, reptilian humanoids, and non-humanoids. The first two are mostly associated with contactees, the second two with abductees, and the last is uncommon (although it is the most likely one to be genuine given the facts of different evolution).

The first two are very likely either fantasies, mental constructs, time travelers from the near future or simply fellow human beings having a good joke at the expense of others. The second two are fantasies, mental constructs or later forms of humans (ie, time travelers from a distant time or after some genetic catastrophe). The Greys are 'fetus-like' in some ways and much further evolved in other ways, either one easily explainable. The reptiloids seem a lot like fantasized dinosaur-men. Many mammals, including Man, have an instinctive fear of reptiles, going back to when mammals were shrew-sized and had to hide from the often massive teeth of hungry dinosaurs. So if the brain wishes to create a monster, it doesn't need to look far. The Japanese are especially fond of reptilian monsters, as shown by Godzilla, Rodan, et al. *The Creature from the Black Lagoon* was the probable origin of Lizard-Man sightings in the South and some 'aliens'. The popularity of the science fiction mini-series *V*, about disguised reptilian humanoids coming to Earth to prey on humans, is yet another example.

Although a big fan of *Star Trek*, even as a child I thought it was very absurd for so many of the aliens encountered to be humanoid. This is ridiculous and totally unrealistic. Of course, there were the Hortas, Melkotians, Tholians, and more than a few energy beings of various types. Indeed, a formless being with pseudopods and multiple sense organs or without a completely physical body would be much more efficient for space travel. The classic British TV series *UFO* had aliens who lived in and breathed fluid. This made them able to sustain much higher G-forces and make 'impossible' atmospheric maneuvers (sound a bit familiar?). Now look at our planet—more of it is covered by water than land. From a distance, it would be logical to assume intelligent life here would be aquatic or possibly amphibian in nature. Carbon-based life forms need water. Aliens of carbon-based biology, having evolved elsewhere, are just as likely to be water-dwelling as land-dwelling. Yet there is almost a complete lack of any stories of aquatic aliens (unless you accept those rare stories of UFOs seen entering and exiting bodies of water as partial evidence).

I am not completely discounting the possibility of extraterrestrial visitations to our planet, but I feel the odds are so remote as to approach zero. Despite all these years, dozens of contactees, hundreds of abductees, thousands of varying kinds of close encounters, there is still *no credible physical evidence* to support the ET theory. This is the biggest missing piece of the puzzle, much like the unproven cases for Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster, despite all that has been said and done. While strange things may be seen from time to time, there is more than enough evidence—circumstantial and otherwise—to put their origin right here. Whenever a theory has big holes in it, it is not a completely valid theory. This is the case with claiming alien intervention, because equally possible earthly origins can fit every bit of the evidence.

In the Navy I was involved in one special intelligence project (don't ask for details, because I took *my* security oath seriously). Before it started we were trained by someone from the NSA. In secure spaces, after the training was over and before he left for his next assignment, he had a candid discussion with our small group, answering our questions about *anything*. He was in a position to have had access to UFO information, if any exists. He assured us that there never had been alien contact or recovery of alien technology by the U.S. He did admit there were all sorts of experimental test craft that not even he was all that knowledgeable about. His vague hints made sense in the light of the later-revealed stealth aircraft. He said the rumors of UFO recoveries developed from our military's hush-hush recovery of our own (and occasional Soviet) top secret test vehicles after infrequent crashes. Alien 'bodies' were ergonomic test dummies or myths. I have no reason not to believe what he said. I makes much more sense.

Given the evidence, I say that UFOs are man-made—whether by the conscious or unconscious creativity of the mind, or actual manufactured products of human ingenuity.

Research Tips

FORTEAN RESEARCH ON A BUDGET:

Tip #8 — Tag Sales!

by Gary S. Mangiacopra

Springtime brings out flowers and also tag sales! For the fortean researcher with a very limited budget this is one of the best times of the year to buy needed equipment for their use throughout the coming year.

As a person who cannot resist stopping at tag sales—or even better still, larger flea markets—I have many times come across many useful items at costs of only pennies on the dollar that the original purchaser paid for it. These savings can be passed onto you, the fortean researcher!

In the past years, from my own experience, I have run across numerous items that I bought and use. For example, camera equipment (right now everyone is getting rid of their 8mm and Super 8 movie cameras/projectors and getting into video—some great buys), home weather dials (great for determining local weather conditions), books and magazines (build up your private library inexpensively—you can buy an almost new \$20 book for perhaps 50¢, or some 1940's magazines for 10¢ each that private dealers are asking \$5 each for), camping equipment (anything that sellers have lost interest in and you can use for your in-the-field trips), car supplies (clamps for hoses if you break down who knows where, tools, etc.), office furniture (a writing desk or a \$200 office chair like the one I bought for \$5), and typewriters, both manual and electric, that everyone is getting rid of for next to nothing and getting into word processors and home computers. The list goes on and on.

Your local newspapers may have a weekend listing of persons who are having tag sales. I have found that it is best—rather than go from one sale to another—to find persons of one specific area or street that are having numerous tag sales on the same date. This way you travel to just one specific area and go down, looking over a dozen or more sellers. There are two best times of day for going to a tag sale: early in the morning and at the end of the time schedule given by the tag seller. In the morning, you get the first choice of the items for sale, but at the end of the sale you can get the leftovers for a discounted price. As the seller is determined to dispose of these items, they are much more receptive to making a deal with you.

Another good source of tag sales are those offered by schools, churches, and other charity organizations with their white elephant sales. They are interested in raising cash and are not willing to hold onto unsold items, so at the end of their sales you can get good bargains.

Flea markets are a different matter, I have found. There, the sellers are very firm on their asking price. If they do not get it, they will hold onto the item and sell it at another flea market at another time. One good aspect of flea markets is that they have a wider variety of sellers from different portions of your state and may offer a wider range of items.

A good tip to the would-be buyer: If you can, use "the rule of four" before you leave to attend tag sales. Any battery-operated equipment may or probably not be functioning correctly, and the seller usually does not have any batteries on hand for you to try the equipment out. Carry four of each of the following types of batteries with you: AA, AAA, C and D. If you see something you like, ask the seller to hold onto it while you can get your batteries to test it to see if it works. It would also help to have at least one 9 volt battery and a couple of different button batteries with you.

So this spring enjoy the sights as you travel to the tag sales, seeking bargains to help you continue your research-on-a-budget campaign!

[This is a very good tip. "Used" does not necessary mean "useless". There are any number of names for these sales, often listed in local papers: Rummage sales, garage sales, yard sales, estate sales, swap meets, jumble sales, moving sales, going out of business sales, etc. Also, check out local used book stores and thrift shops, like Goodwill, Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul, Humane Society, etc. Buying from the latter few nets you bargains and provides money to good causes. Anything you are looking for is out there *somewhere!* *The Editor*]

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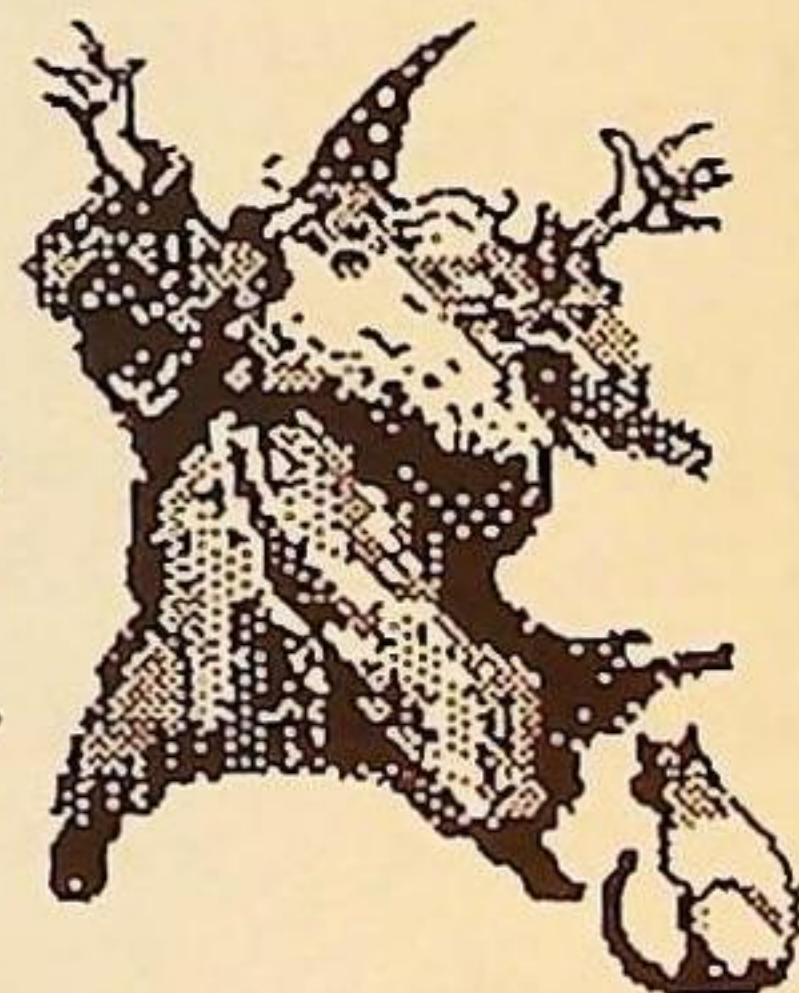
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